

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 005907

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS FOR BRZEZINSKI

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM PEKING DATED JANUARY 10,
1978 SENT SECSTATE WASHDC IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

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NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: CH US TW OREP (CRANSTON, ALAN)

SUBJ: REP. SOLARZ CONVERSATION WITH VICE FOREIGN MINISTER WANG HAI-JU
NG

1. CODEL CRANSTON MEMBER REP. STEPHEN SOLARZ INITIATED A
CONVERSATION WITH VICE FOREIGN MINISTER WANG HAI-JUNG AT
A USLORECEPTION ON JANUARY 7. A RECORD OF THAT
CONVERSATION (POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT, HONG KONG, TOKYO
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AND CINCPAC AS EXDIS MEMCON) FOLLOWS.

2. REP. SOLARZ EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS
WHICH HE HAD BEEN RELUCTANT TO RAISE WITH VICE PREMIER
TENG THAT AFTERNOON OWING TO HIS "JUNIOR" STATUS ON
CODEL CRANSTON. WANG INVITED HIM TO POSE THE QUESTIONS
TO HER.

3. NORMALIZATION. TO REP. SOLARZ' OPENING QUESTION REGARDING PRC THINKING ON PEACEFUL LIBERATION OF TAIWAN, WANG RECITED THE CUSTOMARY CHINESE LINE: LIBERATION OF TAIWAN IS AN INTERNAL AFFAIR OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE WHICH BROOKS NO INTER-FERENCE FROM ANY THIRD PARTY. SHE INDICATED (REFERRING TO VICE PREMIER TENG'S EARLIER REMARKS ALONG THE SAME LINES) THAT THE PRC HAD "TWO HANDS" TO EMPLOY IN RESOLUTION OF THE TAIWAN QUESTION -- THE "HAND" OF PEACEFUL LIBERATION AND THE "HAND" OF ARMED LIBERATION. SHE VENTURED NO OPINION AS TO WHICH OF THESE "HANDS" WAS MORE LIKELY TO BE EMPLOYED IN THE END.

4. REP. SOLARZ EXPLAINED THAT ANY AMERICAN GOVERNMENT, WHILE READY TO ACCEPT THE THREE CONDITIONS AS THE BASIS FOR NORMALIZATION OF US-PRC RELATIONS, WOULD BE OBLIGED TO CONVINCE THE AMERICAN PUBLIC THAT A LONGSTANDING FRIEND AND ALLY WAS NOT BEING SOLD OUT. VICE FOREIGN MINISTER WANG REPLIED IN HER USUAL CUTTING MANNER, OBSERVING THAT THE UNITED STATES APPEARED TO HAVE GREAT DIFFICULTY WITH ITS "FRIENDS". SHE CITED NGUYEN VAN THIEU AS A CASE IN POINT, INQUIRING RHETORICALLY WHERE US BITTER-END SUPPORT FOR THIS "FRIEND" HAD GOT IT IN THE END.

5. REITERATING THAT SOME GESTURE TO AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE IN THE COURSE
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OF NORMALIZATION PROCESS, REP. SOLARZ ASKED HOW THE CHINESE WOULD REACT TO A UNILATERAL STATEMENT BY THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT EXPRESSING THE CONTINUING INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES IN A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE TAIWAN QUESTION. WANG RETORTED THAT THIS WOULD CONSTITUTE AN UNWARRANTED INFRINGEMENT OF CHINESE SOVEREIGNTY AND AS SUCH WOULD HAVE TO BE REBUTTED BY THE PRC GOVERNMENT. SHE DID NOT AMPLIFY AS TO THE FORM SUCH A REBUTTAL MIGHT TAKE.

6. VICE FOREIGN MINISTER WANG, WHEN ASKED, ALSO TERMED US PROVISION OF ARMS TO TAIWAN FOLLOWING NORMALIZATION AN UNACCEPTABLE INTERVENTION IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE.

7. COMMENT: VICE FOREIGN MINISTER WANG EXUDED HER USUAL BLEND OF CONTEMPT AND BOREDOM THROUGHOUT THIS EXCHANGE. SHE REFERRED REPEATEDLY TO THE REMARKS MADE EARLIER TO CONNOR CRANSTON BY VICE PREMIER TENG.

8. U.S. TROOPS AND BASES. SOLARZ POSTULATED THAT US

TROOPS AND BASES IN SOUTH KOREA AND THE PHILIPPINES WERE INTENDED TO DEFEND AGAINST SOVIET HEGEMONISM AND EXPANSIONISM, THAT AS SUCH THEY WERE ANALOGOUS TO US PARTICIPATION IN NATO, AND THAT THE CHINESE OUGHT THEREFORE TO APPROVE THEIR PRESENCE.

9. VICE FOREIGN MINISTER WANG COUNTERED THAT THE PRC HAS A CONSISTENT STAND OPPOSING STATIONING OF ALL TROOPS AND MILITARY BASES ON FOREIGN SOIL. SHE WOULD NOT BE DRAWN INTO A DISCUSSION OF THE APPARENT INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN VOCAL CHINESE SUPPORT FOR NATO, A TACIT TOLERATION OF THE US PRESENCE IN JAPAN AND THE PHILIPPINES, AND PUBLIC CONDEMNATION OF THE US FORCES IN SOUTH KOREA. SHE DREW A DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE KOREAN SITUATION, WHICH

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SHE PORTRAYED AS ANALOGOUS TO THAT OF CHINA (UNWARRANTED US INTERFERENCE IN THE AFFAIRS OF ANOTHER NATION), AND THE SITUATION IN WESTERN EUROPE, JAPAN, AND THE PHILIPPINES, WHERE SHE REPEATEDLY CHARACTERIZED THE US PRESENCE AS "YOUR AFFAIR" (I.E., A MATTER TO BE DISCUSSED AND NEGOTIATED BETWEEN THE USG AND THOSE GOVERNMENTS).
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